

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the Name of Allah,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

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King Fahd National Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Mujahid, Abdul Malik

Golden stories of accepted prayers./ Abdul Malik

Mujahid.- Riyadh , 2013

288 p : 17cm X 24 cm

ISBN: 978-603-500-219-6

1- Islamic stories 2-Prayers I-Title

823.0880973 dc 1434/2310

L.D. no. 1434 / 2310

ISBN: 978-603-500-219-6

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ
يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ

And your Lord said: "Invoke Me (believe in My Oneness [Islamic Monotheism] and ask Me for anything), I will respond to your (invocation). Verily, those who scorn My worship (do not invoke Me, and do not believe in My Oneness or Islamic Monotheism) they will surely enter Hell in humiliation!"

[Ghafir 40: 60]

أَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ
خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ ۚ أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِكَافٍ عَبْدًا ۚ وَمَا تَذَكَّرُونَ

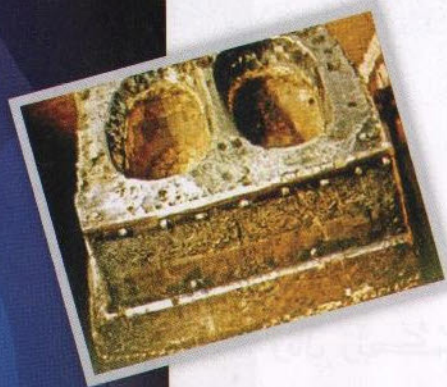
Is not He (better than your gods) Who responds to the distressed one, when he calls on Him, and Who removes the evil, and makes you inheritors of the earth, generation after generation? Is there any ilah (god) with Allah? Little is that you remember!

[An-Naml 27: 62]



GOLDEN STORIES
OF ACCEPTED

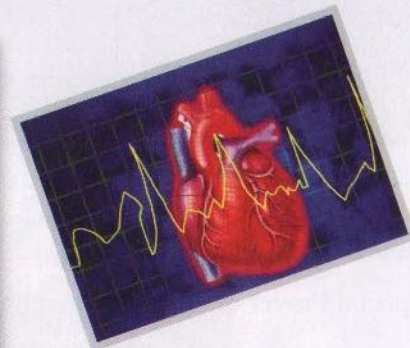
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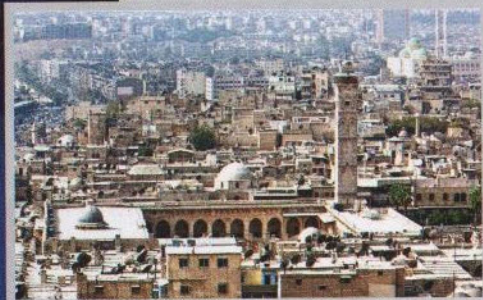




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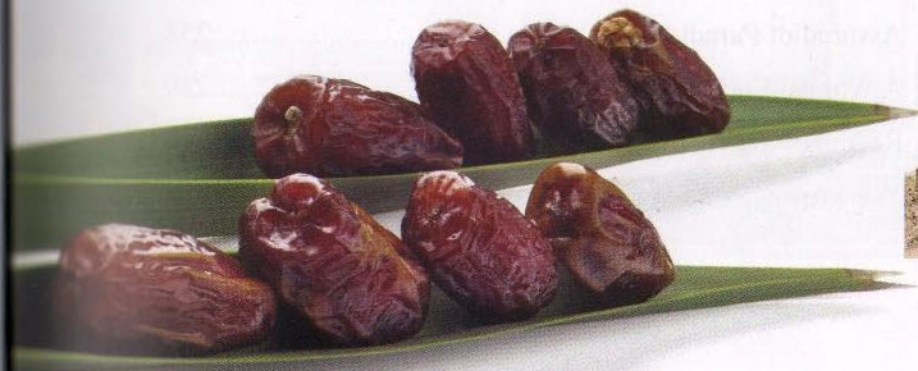
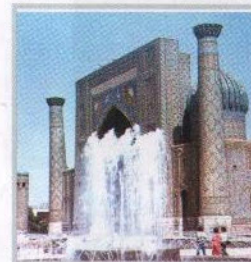
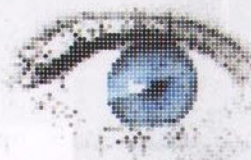
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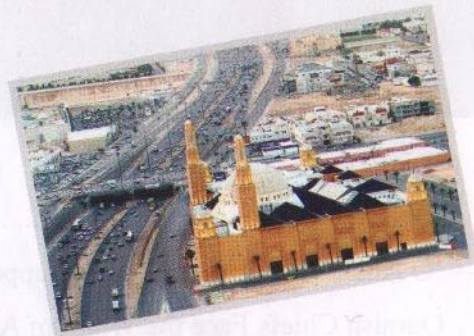




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Publisher's Note

What are invocations? In a real sense these are requests which come from the bottom of our hearts to Allah Almighty. Allah is always ready and happy to receive prayers from anyone at any time.

If you're facing any difficulties or trouble you should immediately turn to Allah for help. The best invocations are those narrated by the Prophet ﷺ. If you don't speak Arabic, you can pray in your mother tongue.

When we pray we should feel assured that Allah will accept our requests. We should do so with complete sincerity and devotion.

Prayers can be made at any time, but there is a greater possibility our prayers will be accepted if we do so at specific times:

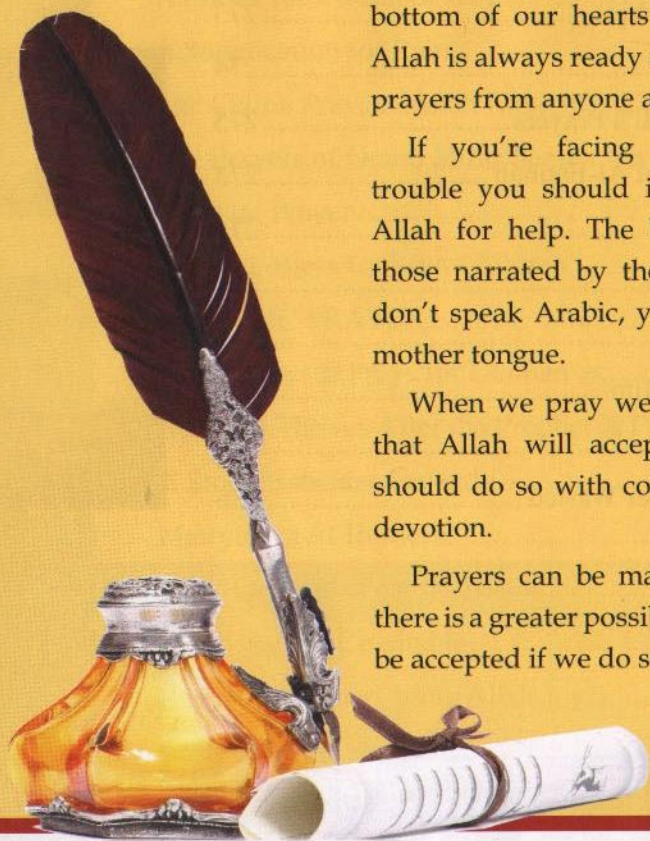
1. Once Aisha رضي الله عنها asked Allah's Messenger ﷺ, "If I find *Lailatul Qadr* (the Night of Power), what should I ask of Allah?"

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said, "You should say,

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي'

'O Allah, Merciful and Compassionate, forgive me.'"

2. The invocations of parents are also accepted by Allah. We should be obedient and loyal to our parents. This will make them happy and they'll regularly pray for us.
3. Allah also accepts invocations after midnight from *Tahajjud* prayer.
4. Allah also accepts invocations after we perform our obligatory prayers.
5. After reciting *tashahhud* and praying for the Prophet ﷺ, we should pray for ourselves because Allah accepts invocations at this time.
6. Prayers are also accepted between *atha'an* and *iqama*, because Allah's Messenger ﷺ said,





'I'm the PRAYER

of my father Ibrahim (عليه السلام)'

Thousands of years ago, Ibrahim Khalilullah¹ and his son Isma'il built the Ka'bah in the dry and waterless valley of Makkah. The Ka'bah was made the first place for the worship of Allah Almighty in this universe. This Holy Sanctuary undoubtedly possesses an exalted status and unparalleled glory.

Imam al-Qastalani writes:

"The House of Allah was built ten times. It was first built by angels. The second

¹ Khalilullah means Friend of Allah

time by Adam, the third time by Adam's son Sheeth, the fourth time by Ibrahim, the fifth time by the community of 'Amalqa, the sixth time by the tribe of Banu Jurhum, the seventh time by Qusay ibn Kilab, the forefather of Allah's Prophet, the eighth time by the Quraish, the ninth time by Abdullah bin Zubair and the tenth time by Hajjaj bin Yusuf."

When the Ka'bah was being built by Ibrahim and Isma'il for the fourth time and its walls raised, Ibrahim asked his son to bring him a stone to stand on, so that he could finish the building.

Isma'il then brought the stone for Ibrahim to stand on. This stone was later known as *Maqam Ibrahim* (the Station of Ibrahim).

After he completed building Allah's House, Ibrahim uttered the following supplication:

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ مَنْ آمَنَ مِنْهُمْ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ﴾

And (remember) when Ibrahim (Abraham) said, "My Lord, make this city (Makkah) a place of security and provide its people with fruits, such of



“

"The House of Allah was built ten times. Ibrahim and Isma'il built the Holy Ka'bah the fourth time."



Her Last Prayer was also **GRANTED**



Dr.

Ahmad was a renowned and sought-after physician in his country. People had to wait for many days before they could get an appointment with him.

The eminent doctor was once invited to an international medical conference which was to be held in a major city in his country. He had to deliver a paper and receive a shield and a commendation certificate in recognition of his services to medicine. As he headed out to the airport, he felt pleased that he was going to be honoured by his peers and colleagues that evening.

After the usual check-in at the airport, he boarded the plane, which took off as scheduled. After about 45 minutes, an airhostess made the following announcement: "Dear passengers, due to a technical problem we are being forced to land at a nearby airport instead of the scheduled destination. We deeply regret the inconvenience."

The plane landed at the airport without any difficulty and the passengers disembarked and went to the lounge. After some time, the airport authorities announced that it was not possible to fix the problem immediately and that the passengers would have to wait for the arrival of an alternative plane. No-one knew when the other plane would arrive. A little while later it was announced that the other plane would only arrive the following day.

Dr. Ahmad was quite shocked at the announcement. This was an important night which he had been looking forward to for several weeks. He got up from his seat, went to a senior airport official, introduced himself and said: "I'm a doctor and I was on my way to present a paper tonight. Delegations from around the world have come to attend this event, and now you're telling us that the alternative plane will arrive after 16 hours!"

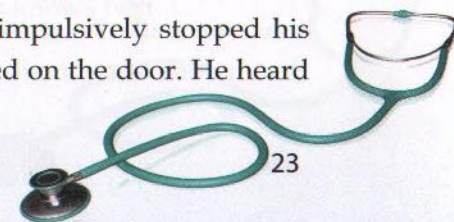
The officer replied, "With all due respect doctor, we can fully appreciate the inconvenience that you're experiencing, but I cannot do anything. Moreover, it's not my responsibility to arrange for an alternative plane. It takes only three to four hours by road to reach the city where you have to attend the conference. If you are in a great hurry, I suggest you get a rental car from the airport and drive to your destination."

Dr. Ahmad did not like driving long distances, but he had no other option. He hired a car and started towards his destination. He had not gone far when all of a sudden the weather turned bad. Dense, dark clouds covered the sky and there was a heavy downpour, coupled with a violent storm. Dr. Ahmad then lost his way in the dark. Hungry and tired, he desperately searched for some shelter and something to eat.

As he was driving past a small village, he impulsively stopped his vehicle in front of one of the houses and knocked on the door. He heard

“

"Delegations from around the world have come to attend this event, and now you're telling us that the alternative plane will arrive after 16 hours!"



NEVER HARM ANYONE



I once came across a person in a marketplace with only one arm who said that if people heard his story they would never harm anyone ever again. When I asked him what happened, he told me the following story:

"I was a government employee, a police official to be precise. One day I saw a fisherman carrying a big fish. I approached him and said, 'Give this fish to me.' He said he had no objection to giving me the fish, but I had to pay the price he wanted. 'I have nothing to eat at home and my children are waiting for me to bring them something to eat. I put a lot of effort into catching this fish,' he said. My immediate reaction was to start beating him; and I then snatched the fish from his hands. But as I headed home, the fish suddenly jerked and bit my thumb. I felt a severe pain, which worsened when I got home. It was at night and I thought I would go to the doctor the next day. I did not sleep that entire night because of the intense pain."

“

"The following morning I again went to the doctor who advised me to have the hand amputated. So my hand was cut off."


“

"My immediate reaction was to start beating him. I then snatched the fish from his hands. But as I headed home, the fish suddenly jerked and bit my thumb."

"Early the next morning I went to a doctor and showed him the injured thumb. He said that the thumb had turned gangrenous and I had to have it amputated for my own health. He warned that even a minor delay would cost me my whole hand. I immediately asked him to go ahead with the amputation. He then cut off my thumb. When I got back home, I still felt severe pain in my hand. I was in agony that entire night. The following morning I again went to the doctor who advised me to have the hand amputated. So my hand was cut off. I thought my ordeal was over, but the pain only worsened. I started screaming in pain and crying out for help. When the doctor examined me, he said the amputation of the entire arm was the only solution because the infection could spread to my entire body."

"The people in my locality soon heard what had happened. One religious person approached me asking, 'What caused your injury?' When I





The Honour of Having a **Prayer Granted**

*"Now it is only You Who
can help me in this state of
confusion."*

The elderly man talking to me on the telephone from a far-off place had asked me for the quotation of a book several times. As many as 50,000 copies of the book were to be printed. My responsibility was to go through it to check the authenticity of its contents. I had skimmed over it and found that many parts could not be substantiated by the Qur'an or Sunnah. I asked myself many times whether I should publish it. I was tempted by the prospect of a large profit. Even a little profit on each copy would have made an ample amount. I was also indebted to the elderly man, whom I called Mian Sahib, for the many favours he had done for me. He had given me money often when I needed it most.

When the telephone rang I knew it was Mian Sahib calling me to ask about the quotation. I raised my eyes to the heavens and said to Allah Almighty:

"Should I seek Your pleasure or oblige Mian Sahib? I don't want to make Mian Sahib angry. Now it is only You Who can help me in this state of confusion." Praying fervently in my heart, I lifted the receiver. It was Mian Sahib, who immediately asked, "Why haven't you sent the quotation?" Instead of replying to his query, I asked him a counter question very politely, "Why do you publish these books?"

As expected, his reply was that his objective was to earn the pleasure of Allah. "Mian Sahib, you publish books after great effort and hard work. Shouldn't we, before we print these books, get them reviewed by some religious scholar, so that if there is anything contrary to the Qur'an and Sunnah, it can be excluded from the text? We should not publish anything inadvertently that might earn the wrath of Allah Almighty."

Esteemed readers, Allah Almighty granted my prayer. Mian Sahib's tone changed. He said, "To heck with these writers! I have asked my staff many times to look at the draft in minute detail to ensure that it is error-free." Then we digressed and the topic of quotations was dropped from our conversation. *Al-Hamdulillah*, my prayer was answered.


(From the compiler's diary)

“

*"We should not
publish anything
inadvertently
that might earn
the wrath of
Allah Almighty."*



»»»»



A STORM SUBSIDES INSTANTLY

Abdullah bin Habib was a renowned religious scholar and *muhaddith* of Andulas. He was a *mustajab-ud-da'wat*¹ person; and prayed all the time.

Once he went on a sea voyage to gain *hadith* knowledge. At one stage the sea became so rough, everyone thought the boat would capsize. He performed ritual ablution (*wudhu*) in that hour of trial, raised his hands heavenwards and then uttered a prayer worth reading and hearing:

‘اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ رِحْلَتِي هَذِهِ لِرَوْحِكَ خَالِصًا، وَإِلْخِيَاءِ سُنَنِ

رَسُولِكَ، فَاكْشِفْ عَنَّا هَذَا الْغَمَّ وَأَرِنَا رَحْمَتَكَ كَمَا أَرَيْتَنَا عَذَابَكَ

“O Allah! You know that this journey of mine is purely for Your Pleasure and for the revival of the Sunnah of Your Beloved Prophet ﷺ. O Allah! Keep this trouble away from us, and do show us Your mercy as You have shown Your torture.”

The instant he finished this prayer, Allah the Lord of Honor by His Grace relieved them of the trouble. The storm subsided, the water became calm and their ship reached the shore safely.²

1 One whose prayers are almost always granted.

2 Kitab 'Aja'ib-ud-du'a, Second Part.

MARTYRDOM AT HOME

This incident is mentioned in *Siyar A'lam an-Nubala* (The Lives of Noble Figures). Haithem bin Imran Tai says: “I was sitting with Ayub bin Halbis - a blind person who had goodness in his nature, leanings towards religion and immense love for Allah - who was making the following supplication:

‘اللَّهُمَّ ارْزُقْنِي شَهَادَةً فِي سَبِيلِكَ’

“O Allah! Grant me martyrdom in Your way.”

Haithem said: “I thought to myself that one can (only) embrace martyrdom on the battlefield. He is blind. How can he embrace martyrdom while sitting at home?”

Esteemed readers, it is a matter of heart. If you aspire after a thing from the core of your heart, it is not difficult for Allah, the Lord of the whole universe, to grant your wish. After some time, the enemy invaded Damascus and Ayub Bin Halbis was among the innocents massacred.

When the killers learnt what they had done, they burst into tears and repented. According to Imam Zahbi, this incident took place in 132 AH.

So Allah Almighty granted martyrdom to this man while he was at home.

Umayyad Mosque of Damascus

